Promotion of tourism in Himachal Pradesh

†280. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States which have attracted maximum number of foreign tourists during the last three years;

(b) the details of schemes implemented by Government especially in Himachal Pradesh to attract foreign tourists;

(c) the profit earned by the tourism sector from the said schemes; and

(d) the percentage of share of tourism sector in total income earned in term of foreign exchange in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) As per the estimates, the State of Maharashtra recorded maximum foreign tourist visits during 2004 and 2003, while during 2002, Tamil Nadu recorded maximum foreign tourist visits.

(b) There are no State specific schemes being implemented by Department of Tourism to attract foreign tourists. The Department of Tourism however, provides financial assistance to States under its various schemes for development of specified destinations/Circuits in States to attract domestic and foreign tourists. The Department of Tourism has also launched publicity campaign in foreign and domestic markets to show stunning vignettes of India through TV, Internet, Magazines, and also by organizing events, facilitation participating in tourism parts and bringing out collaterals to attract tourists. The State Government is also releasing advertisements in leading magazines and in electronic media to attract foreign tourists, besides participating in tourism fairs.

(c) The foreign exchange earnings by India from tourism during the year 2005 have been estimated at US$ 5731 million.

(d) As per the information provided by Reserve Bank of India, share of tourism/travel receipts to total foreign exchange earnings during 2004-05 was 4.2%.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.